

And that's just the way it is.

RESTORATION TUESDAY: A
DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday I rise to acknowledge the persistent need for new voting rights legislation, even after the 2016 general election.

Last week's presidential election was the first in over fifty years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—and it must be the last. The time to restore the fundamental civil right to vote for millions of Americans is always right now. This is not a request for reconciliation, this a deliberate demand for democracy.

Just one week ago today, American citizens faced voting restrictions in the forms of new photo ID requirements, DMV and voting poll closures, and significant reductions or elimination of early voting and weekend voting. Voting restrictions have been put in place in 22 states—14 of which had new restrictions for the first time in 2016, making it harder for millions of Americans to exercise their right to vote. This was unacceptable at the inception of the Constitution. This was unacceptable during the marches of 1965. How can we, as representatives of the American people, accept this blatant disregard to our democracy today? We need to make voting easier, not harder for the citizens of this country. We cannot and must not accept suppression of the vote.

According to a federal court, the State of Wisconsin had over 300,000 registered voters who lacked the ID required by new photo ID laws. In my home state of Alabama, new photo IDs were required and then over 30 DMVs were systematically closed down following the announcement of the new laws. On this past Election Day one week ago, there were 868 fewer polling places in states with a history of voter discrimination like Arizona, North Carolina and Texas.

The 2016 election may be over, but the fight for voting rights is far from finished. It is time to stop restricting access to the ballot box. It is time to show our country that we, as representatives of the American people, are using every tool at our disposal to prevent discriminatory voting practices. There is nothing more important in a democracy than ensuring that every citizen has an equal opportunity to let their voice be heard through their right to vote.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support a bipartisan effort to Restore the Vote. The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 that I introduced reaffirms our commitment to voter equality and creating protected pathways to voter access. This legislation takes an expansive view of the need to protect access to the voting booth, and will offer more voter protection to more people in states including Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. I urge all of my colleagues seated here today to pass legislation that will not just protect the

votes of minorities, but also those of students, the disabled, the poor, and those in the military and overseas.

We cannot forget the courage and dedication of those who marched and fought for voting rights in 1965. Let's not forget the lessons learned in 1965 and in the fifty years since as we have watched countless attempts to undermine our progress. As Civil Rights icon, Congressman, and my friend JOHN LEWIS will tell you, "There is still work to be done." Let's recommit ourselves to restoring the promise of voter equality. Partisanship cannot be prioritized over the people of America. Voter suppression has to stop now.

OUR GOD IN WHOM WE HAVE
PLACED OUR TRUST

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is a commissioner on the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission and a past national Interfaith Chair for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). Rabbi Zoberman asked me to include the following in the RECORD:

We have gratefully gathered on the auspicious occasion of our 7th annual Veterans Day service, at our uplifting communal home of the Reba and Sam Sandler Campus and the Simon Family JCC of our beloved Hampton Roads community. Let us proudly recall our heroes—past, present, and future—and their singular selfless and sacrificial devotion to our great American nation, as well as its undying legacy of democratic values and ideals, which remain a shining beacon of light to the entire free world for those in particular still living in the darkness of oppression.

We underwent a bruising vitriolic presidential election uncovering deep wounds and conflicting divisions within the American people on critical core issues. In the American way, we look forward to another peaceful, orderly, and gracious transition of power through ballots, not bullets, unlike some other countries. We will continue to abide by the high principles that have guided and preserved us as the world's leading democracy. Even as we pray for togetherness through the essential gift of unity, we are mindful that unity does not imply unanimity. We understand that our amazing diversity of people and ideas is the empowering source of our enviable strength as a superpower, and ultimately democracy depends on a vigorous debate, though with civility, of differing and even opposing views, including noxious ones, by all sides.

After all, the dynamics of periodic change are inherent in the governmental system we have called democracy, one that our founders wisely chose and devised for us to follow and participate in at the birth of the audacious experiment we call America. Humbling is the democratic proposition that constitutional power may change hands without abandoning

the underlying tenets that have lit our path, allowing us to live in freedom and flourish like no other nation. The British system insightfully speaks of the "loyal opposition." The recent contentious election points at "two Americas," or even more, and our goal is to build connecting bridges toward "a more perfect union." Both winners and losers (alternating in a democracy) belong to the one big tent of our American family. There is plenty of space for everyone in the inviting spirit of dialogue. All are needed in order to fully fulfill America's promise and mandate.

Our military heroes, including our Jewish American ones, are the essential and appreciated shared golden treasure, gloriously gluing together the disparate parts of our political tapestry while protecting its very existence. Only yesterday we observed the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht (the Night of the Broken Glass throughout Germany on November 9–10, 1938), the beginning of the end of European Jewry, orchestrated in the heart of so-called civilized Europe with disastrous consequences for humanity. The presence of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation's capital is a poignant statement that democracies are vulnerable. Democracies require eternal vigilance and engagement of the caring, concerned, courageous, and compassionate citizenry, lest it becomes perverted from within due to extreme conditions and corrosive demagoguery with evil intent. The Jewish people can sadly attest that words do matter and bear fateful consequence. Human dignity and God's divinity go hand in hand.

These are unsettling and dangerous times. Children and adults are being bombed and starved with impunity in Aleppo, Syria. Millions of homeless refugees are again on the run. The Islamic State assaults civilization in Iraq and elsewhere. The Iranian government has acted belligerently, and Russia has emboldened aggression. I am painfully reminded of belonging to the surviving remnant (Sherit Ha'Pleta) of European Jewry, a time in which early childhood was spent in the Displaced Persons Camps of Austria and Germany, surrounded by barbed wire for protection, and whose father fought in the 118th Red Army infantry division outside Leningrad and Moscow. Having been privileged to live in our unique Hampton Roads for over 30 years, the most powerful hub of military in the world, whose mission is defending freedom's sacred cause, I am sharply cognizant of how powerless European Jews were during World War II and the Holocaust, and the difference the United States and the State of Israel make.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, the American holiday par excellence, which is rooted in the Pilgrims' attachment to the Hebrew Scriptures and the Israelites' journey from bondage to freedom, we reflect on our nation's humble beginnings of fleeing refugees. We are duty-bound to give thanks for our measureless blessings, pledging to share them with the less fortunate in hopes that America will continue to be blessed. May we ever turn pain into promise, hatred into love, violence into vision, adversity into advantage, and trial into triumph with Shalom's holy peace of healing, hope, and harmony for all of God's children. Amen.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 4665, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as the Natural State, Arkansas's outdoor recreation and natural beauty draws millions of visitors each year, contributing to our state's economy and supporting thousands of jobs.

Yesterday, the House passed the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which would result in our Nation measuring the economic impact of our outdoor recreation industry, providing Americans with important information on this vital part of the U.S. economy.

This bill would give our federal, state, and local governments the ability to more fully analyze the benefits that outdoor recreation provides so that we may better support our parks and outdoor areas for the enjoyment of all Americans.

In Arkansas, the Department of Parks and Tourism also provides important funding to improve the management and quality of our state's outdoor recreation areas through the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program.

Through important policies and programs on our federal, state, and local levels, we can continue to support the great outdoors and encourage more Americans to visit and access our country's vast network of parks, forests, and trails.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1209, the "Improving Access to Maternity Care Act."

This important measure will require the Health Resources and Services Administration to designate maternity care health professional shortage areas and review these designations at least annually.

A maternity care health professional shortage area is described as:

any area with a shortage of full scope maternity care health services; or

any geographical area home to a population group experiencing a shortage of such providers or facilities.

Full scope maternity care includes: (1) care during labor, (2) birthing, (3) prenatal care and (4) postpartum care.

H.R. 1209 will address the concern of shortages in provision of care, and improve access to maternal medical care for women in need.

Access to better maternal care will ensure a safer delivery for both mother and child, safeguarding the bedrock of the American family.

Approximately 34,000 women die each year in the United States from pregnancy-related complications—one every fifteen minutes.

The risk is two times greater for women living in high-poverty areas, than for women living in low-poverty areas.

African-American women are 3–4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, a travesty we cannot continue to allow to occur in 2016 in the United States.

In 2010, almost 50 percent of counties in the country did not have OB/GYNs who provided direct patient care to expecting mothers, and almost all of these counties had no certified nurse-midwives.

Limited access to maternity care providers has greatly extended wait and travel times for patients' appointments, and exacerbated capacities at prenatal care sites and birthing facilities.

Maternal medical care is among the top reasons for the hospitalization of women in the United States.

Hospitalization can be costly, in 2010 child delivery and newborn infant care cost American families \$111 billion.

The designation of maternity care health services professional shortage areas can help to reduce maternal care cost by allowing for greater access to prenatal care and giving women safe delivery options within their local communities.

For these reasons, I support H.R. 1209 the "Improving Access to Maternity Care."

IN HONOR OF 1ST LIEUTENANT SALVATORE "SAL" CORMA II

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of 1st Lieutenant Salvatore "Sal" Corma II of Deptford, New Jersey, who gave his life saving his fellow service members during his time protecting the United States of America.

Sal was a committed believer in helping his country and his community; he joined the U.S. Army after graduating the West Point Military Academy.

In 2010 while serving in Zabul Province in Afghanistan, Sal was killed in action as he attempted to safely mark the location of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Sal knew the risks inherent in marking the IED and bravely ordered the other members of his platoon to keep a safe distance and let him take the risk alone. This decision unquestionably saved the lives of numerous of his fellow service members but cost him his. He was 24.

Sal is remembered by the Gloucester County community as a helpful, generous young man. After his passing, his mother Gertrude Corma and his father Salvatore S. Corma, who passed in 2011, found out truly how much their son meant to so many others.

For his acts of valor Sal was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, is featured on the Gloucester County Wall of Heroes, and is buried in the West Point Cemetery. In this year, following the accent of Congress and the signature of President Obama, Sal's hometown U.S. Post Office in Deptford was renamed the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building." I believe that this is a fitting memorial for such a courageous and beloved young man.

Mr. Speaker, Sal Corma gave his life putting others before himself: he served his country with honor and encourages pride in a grateful

nation. I join with his mother, his family, friends, and all of South Jersey in honoring the life of this truly selfless and exceptional man.

A MINNESOTA SONGWRITER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jake Berglove, an Elk River resident and Perpich Arts High School senior, for his recent win in the Twin Cities Songwriting Challenge put on by the National Endowment for the Arts.

As the Twin Cities Songwriting Challenge winner, Jake, and the other winners from around the nation will go on to compete in New York City. There, Jake will have the chance to earn five thousand dollars and have his song published by Sony. This is an amazing accomplishment as only four contests were held across the nation.

Jake's hard work and love for music has gotten him to this point and will help him this fall as he joins the Carlson School of Management class of 2020 at the University of Minnesota. He hopes to go into music and talent management in the future—and I'm sure we will see him continue to achieve great things.

Congratulations Jake and good luck.

IN RECOGNITION OF SONDRAMYERS, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHEMEL FORUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND SENIOR FELLOW FOR INTERNATIONAL, CIVIC AND CULTURAL PROJECTS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sondra Myers, Director of the Schemel Forum at the University of Scranton and Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects. On November 13, Ms. Myers was the first recipient of WVIA's Arts & Culture Award. As an international advocate for the arts, humanities and civil rights, Mrs. Myers has had an incredible career working for presidents, governors, and institutions.

Ms. Myers served on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 1980 to 1985. From 1987 to 1993, she served as Cultural Advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. In 1993, Ms. Myers worked for the Chairman at the National Endowment for the Humanities for partnerships and collaboration. From 1996 to 2000, Myers served as senior advisor to the president of Connecticut College. She directed the President's Millennium Seminars: The University for a New Democratic Era, a project of The George Washington University. She was the Rapoport Democracy Fellow at the Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy at Rutgers University. She previously held the position of senior associate for the Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland.